the fact that due to open cast mining by the Coal India Limited the environment in Assam, has been polluted to a great extent;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the pollution in these mining areas;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Assam Government to prevent pollution created by the Coal India Limited in Assam; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The issue of environmental degradation caused by opencast mining by the Coal India Ltd. in Assam has been brought to the notice of Central Govt. by various distinguished persons and organisations of Assam.Chief Minister of Assam had also written to the Central Govt. on this issue in August 1988. On the basis of the complaints received, the Ministry of Environment & Forests had constituted an Expert Committee in 1988 to look into the environmental problems arising from the coal mining operations being carried out by Coal India Ltd. Opencast mining has resulted in damage to vegetation, pollution and siltation of water courses and deposition of silt in the flat agriculture lands. On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Govt. has decided to stop opencast mining in Tikak mine. The mining operations have since been stopped from 5th April 1990. The restoration works which, *inter alia*, include construction of toe-walls, check dams, gully plugging, terracing on the slopes and plantations thereon will continue. The Govt. of Assam had also set up a Technical Committee which had made a number of recommendations for implementation in the opencast sites. The implementation of control measures have also been monitored by the Assam Pollution Control Board.

Use of Official Language in CGHS

1941. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of official language has been given due importance in the CGHS dispensaries/hospitals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide more Roman and Devnagari typewriters in the CGHS headquarters/hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisions of official language Act and rules framed thereunder are given due importance in CGHS dispensary/hospitals for progressive use of Hindi in the Official work.

(c) Action is in progress to supply more Devnagari Typewriters to CGHS Office.

Guidelines to Parents to Prevent Blindness

1942. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Society for Prevention of Blindness, India has issued guidelines to parents to prevent blindness as reported in the Hindu of 12th March, 1990; and

(b) whether Government is likely to make this a part and parcel of text-books for school children and would prepare videos for screening on T.V. etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps to be taken for prevention of

night blindness are dealt with in the chapter of 'deficiency diseases' in the text-books of Environment Studies (Science) for class V published by the N.C.E.R.T. The NCERT has also prepared materials on early detection of visual impairment for appropriate intervention to prevent blindness.

Supply of No-Demand Certificates by DESU

1943. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government employees willing to vacate their Government accommodation in the MCD areas have to submit 'No-Demand Certificate' issued by DESU; if so, the details of the time-limit fixed for issuing these certificates and the details of guidelines issued by Government to ensure compliance of the time-limit;

(b) what are the details of cases pending in the Motia-Khan office of DESU for issuance of No-Demand Certificates and for settlement of the accounts since January, 1990;

(c) the meter-readings as noted on each occasion during the last six months in those cases, the number of cases settled, of those still pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any complaints have been received in this regard in that office; if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon and what action is proposed to be taken against those found delaying the clearance of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of Chairman/Managing Director of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd.

1944. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 534 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether any final decision regarding the appointment of Chairman and Managing Director of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. has been taken so far;

(b) if so, what is the date on which the appointment was approved; and

(c) if not yet approved; what are the reasons therefor and by when the decision is likely to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government have not yet satisfied themselves regarding approval of the appointment in terms of Section 269 of the Companies Act, 1956.

Measures for Pollution control in Thermal Power Stations in the country

1945. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Thermal Power Stations are based on coal in the country;

(b) what are the emission regulations prescribed by Pollution Control Board or other Government agencies for these power stations;

(c) whether these thermal power stations are equipped with necessary pollution control measures; and

(d) how much amount has been allocated during the current year for controlling pollution from thermal power stations?